MY ENGAGEMENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 31

Monday, February 1

Tuesday, February 2

MY SERMON NOTES

Unity in Diversity.

1 Cor 12:6 There are diversities of operations (workings effects) but the same God which effecteth everything in every one.

7 — Each receives his manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Intro. Scripture lesson (1 Cr. 12 & 13) sets forth a vital truth concerning Xns & Xty. There are diversities in experiences, but all belong to Christ and are the workings of the one & same Spirit of God.

God never created any two of the same kind exactly alike.

In nature - no two leaves, or flowers a trees or birds or animals or persons alike. ~~In multiplied objects~~ ~~are the same but no two alike.~~ In each class.

But in nature & in the social life of man there is a tendency to reduce to a common level. Mts are being washed down, sea-bottoms filled up & heaved up. Valleys filled.

MY SERMON NOTES

Our social life tends to reduce all individuals to a common level. Men who live comparatively alone become rugged & intensely individual but when they crowd together as in the cities the social pressure makes for uniformity & type. So strong does this tendency become as to wield a tyrannical influence.

The same influence is at work in the religious life. A great spiritual experience comes to an ~~the~~ individual person. He imparts it to others & his followers form a fellowship around this spiritual experience. And in that bond of fellowship there rests the tendency to conform the whole spiritual life to that single experience. Hence there arises clashing groups who differ from one another.

The Xns who are already divided into many differing groups

MY SERMON NOTES

should ever bear in mind that God seeks unity in diversity, not in uniformity.

The sunshine is but one, yet how diverse is its operations. Within the thousands of plant varieties clothed in all colors of the rainbow. God's grace works the same way. He does not seek to build his Kingdom by making us all alike. No single finite standard can govern the infinite.

I first let us think of conversion. There are as many roads to God as there are hearts seeking to find him.

The conversion of the professional diver. "I could hold out no longer since God's mercy pursued me even to the bottom of the sea."

It took an earthquake to convert the Philippian jailer, it took a vision of

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MY SERMON NOTES

& blindness to convert Paul, but the Ethopian eunuch was converted while quietly reading in his chariot.

Some are born suddenly into the kingdom, others grow up in it.

X said the wind bloweth where it listeth, & thou canst not tell whence it cometh or whither it goeth. So, says the Lord, is the new birth.

We all know the exact hour of Paul's conversion — but who can tell when Timothy was converted? Even his youth up he knew the scriptures & was cradled in the love of Christ.

In the matter of conversion there are diversities of operations.

II. Let us think of a saint as of a peculiar type of Xn character — devout, pious & self-sacrificing.

Paul was fond of using the word "saint" "In the saints that are in Ephesus." — & he uses

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MY SERMON NOTES

only to the outstanding Xns? No.
He wrote to all of them.
One would be a strong stern man,
another would be a shy backward
girl, one a poet with a heart of
music, another would be a
thundering agitator. Paul was
thinking of master & slave, mother
& child. All Xns were saints
to Paul.

Cromwell called his soldiers
saints - it sounds ridiculous, yet
Cromwell had Paul's conception -
Sainthood was for the battle-scarred
veterans & singing with the clash of
steel as well as for the sweet &
gentle soul.

The cowboy & the woodchopper,
the butcher & the baker can be
saints in Xn Jesus as well as
the preacher & the teacher & the
doctor & the scientist.

MY SERMON NOTES

Take the 12 apostles - how they differed from one another - the lovable & loving John, the fiery Peter the mystic Paul, the doubting Thomas

Each of them was empowered to become - not what his neighbor or his brother was, but what he was himself in God's eyes, according to the pattern in the Mount.

Lastly let us think of Xn service. David & Goliath. Saul wanted David to put on his armor, but David chose to fight in his own way.

There are diversities of ways to serve Jesus Christ and all are Xn service. There is something for each Xn to do and it is what we do all together that counts for the building of the Kingdom. Xn civilization can be built in no other way.

Therefore let us glory in what others are doing and help by doing what we ourselves can do.